

“Sexual Immorality and our Relationship with God”

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

SEXUAL SIN AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. The Biblical purpose and model for marriage. Gen 2:22-25; Ref. Mt 19:5; Mk 10:7; Eph 5:31

- God's *purpose* for marriage: to reflect the Gospel. I.e., a picture of Christ's love for the church. Eph 5:22-23
 - God's *model* for marriage. Genesis 2:24: Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- LEAVE, CLEAVE and WEAVE → CLEAVE = hold fast to, be joined to, cling to
- God's *design* for marriage: Marriage is reserved exclusively for one man married to one woman.
- Sexual intimacy is only to happen in this context.
- On a very simple, basic level: we worship Yahweh—the LORD. He has given us the parameters for sexual relations. Will I follow Him as my God or not?

2. The sexual union between 2 people reflects the Christian's spiritual union with God. 1 Cor. 6:15-20

- Paul connects sexual sin and our relationship with God. He asks three questions:
 - v.15: Do you not know that your bodies are *members of Christ*?
 - v.16: Do you not know that he who is *joined to* a prostitute becomes one body with her?
 - v.19: Do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit* within you, whom you have from God?
 - **LOOK at v.17:** Paul calls us to sexual purity by appealing to the Christian's union with God (not with his wife).
- Don't join yourself to a prostitute. Why? NOT: b/c you are one with your wife. Rather: b/c you are one with God!

3. Sexual sin is a distortion of our relationship with God.

- God commands & invites us to be joined to Him. The same word describes husband/wife as God/us.
 - Deut 10:20-21: You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him and *hold fast to Him* [cling to Him], and by His name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.
 - Deut 11:22-23: For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the LORD your God, walking in all His ways, and *holding fast to* [clinging to] Him, then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.
- What about 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:5, Galatians 5:19-23?

4. Sexual sin is a form of avoiding relationship with God.

- Harry Schaumburg's book *False Intimacy*: Sexual maturity and spiritual maturity go hand in hand.
 - Sexual immorality is a coping mechanism for when God doesn't come through for us the way we want.
- Is God enough? Is God worthy of our obedience?
- Sexual sin is not an attempt to 'find love'—it is an attempt to avoid relational disappointment and pain.
 - Sexual sin deadens the heart. Hosea 4:10-11; Ezekiel 16:30
 - Hosea 4:10-11: They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the LORD to cherish whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.
 - Ezekiel 16:30: “How languishing is your heart,” declares the LORD God, “while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot.”
- Why do you stay in sexual sin? Not b/c you're trying to find life—but b/c you're trying to escape life.
- God is not trying to take life away from you—He is giving life!

“A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority.”
-Booker T. Washington

Resources:

Unwanted: How Sexual Brokenness Reveals our Way to Healing by Jay Stringer. (NavPress; 2018) - \$14

False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction by Dr. Harry W. Schaumburg (NavPress; 1997) - \$17